

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Andrew Wilford on 4/3/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

1—10. (Cancel)

11. (currently amended) A plug or socket connectable to a coaxial cable having a plurality of conductors and a tubular shielding surrounding all of the conductors, the plug or socket being formed of several subassemblies and comprising:

an electrically conductive casing sleeve defining an axis and receiving the coaxial cable with the tubular shielding in electrical contact with the casing sleeve;

an electrically insulating holder fitted in the casing sleeve and having an axially throughgoing and central passage generally at the axis and an array ~~generally centered on~~ surrounding the axis of axially throughgoing outer passages ~~[[lying]] that lie~~ between the central passage and the casing sleeve;

respective contacts in the central and outer passages, the contacts in the outer passages each having a press-fit connection secured to a respective one of the conductors; and

a conductive contacting element separate from but in electrical contact with the casing sleeve and with the contact in the central passage, the contacting element forming an electrical connection between the central contact and the shielding, the contacting element having at one end an eye gripping the contact in the center passage and an outer end electrically connected to the casing sleeve.

12. (previously presented) The plug or socket as defined in claim 11 wherein the shielding of the coaxial cable is a shield braid and the contacting element is formed in part as an iris spring.

13. (previously presented) The plug or socket as defined in claim 11 wherein the press-fit connections each have a pair of press-fit arms that contact the respective conductor generally axially.

14. (previously presented) The plug or socket as defined in claim 13 wherein the press-fit arms are fixable at least partially in a wire holder of a part of one of the subassemblies.

15. (previously presented) The plug or socket as defined in claim 14 wherein each pair of arms forms a conductor seat that tapers on one side at a deflecting surface to a cross section and an end of the respective conductor is poked between the respective press-fit arms.

16. (previously presented) The plug or socket as defined in claim 13 wherein the press-fit arms extend generally axially of the socket or plug.

17. (previously presented) The plug or socket as defined in claim 11 wherein the wire holder has respective conductor seats aligned with the outer passages and each holding the respective contact.

18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) The plug or socket as defined in claim 11 wherein the contacting element is flat and lies generally in a plane including the axis and passing between two of the outer passages.

20. (previously presented) The plug or socket as defined in claim 11 wherein each of the contacts has a front pin end projecting axially from the holder.

21. (previously presented) The plug or socket as defined in claim 20 wherein the contacts in the outer passages each have a rear forked end gripping the respective conductor.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 11-17 and 19-21 Claims 1 and 3-5 are allowable over the prior art of record for at least the reason that the prior art fails to teach or suggest a conductive contacting element separate from but in electrical contact with the casing sleeve, wherein the contacting element has at one end an eye gripping the contact in the center passage and an outer end electrically connected to the casing sleeve as set forth in the claimed combination.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

Art Unit: 2833

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hien D. Vu whose telephone number is 571-272-2016.

The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5.

/Hien D. Vu/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2833